

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

Please amend the claims as follows.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling access to resources, said method comprising:
  - storing a policy decision for a resource in local memory, said policy decision received from a remote source of policy definitions, said policy decision based on a policy definition governing access to said resource and on requestor identifying information provided to said remote source;
  - receiving a ~~a-first~~ an initial request for access to said resource, said ~~first~~ initial request comprising said requestor identifying information;
  - evaluating said ~~first~~ initial request using said policy decision in said local memory;
  - receiving a notification from said remote source of a change in said policy definition, said notification identifying said resource ~~comprising an updated version of said policy decision~~;
  - receiving a ~~second~~ subsequent request for access to said resource, said ~~second~~ subsequent request comprising said requestor identifying information; and
  - evaluating said ~~second~~ subsequent request based on said notification ~~updated version of said policy decision~~.
2. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said resource is affiliated with another resource, and wherein further a policy decision for said other resource is received from said remote source and stored in said local memory.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 26 4, wherein  
receiving said notification further comprises storing said updated version of said  
policy decision in said local memory.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Cancelled)
8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein a period of time said policy  
decision is valid is also received from said remote source and stored locally.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein a condition associated with  
said policy definition is also received from said remote source and stored locally,  
wherein said condition is enforced locally.
10. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling access to resources, said method  
comprising:  
receiving a ~~first~~ an initial request for access to a resource, said ~~first~~ initial request  
comprising requestor identifying information, wherein said ~~first~~ initial  
request is referred to a remote source of a policy definition that governs  
access to said resource for evaluation;  
receiving from said remote source a policy decision for said resource, said policy  
decision based on said policy definition and said requestor identifying  
information; and  
storing said policy decision in local memory, wherein a ~~second~~ subsequent request  
for access to said resource is evaluated locally using said policy decision  
stored in said local memory; and  
receiving a notification from said remote source of a change in said policy  
definition, said notification identifying said resource ~~comprising an~~  
~~updated version of said policy decision~~, wherein a third request for access

to said resource received after said notification is evaluated based on said notification ~~updated version of said policy decision~~.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10 wherein said resource is affiliated with another resource, wherein a policy decision for said other resource is received from said remote source and stored in said local memory.
12. (Cancelled)
13. (Cancelled)
14. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 29 [[10]], wherein receiving said notification further comprises:  
storing said updated version of said policy decision in said local memory.
15. (Cancelled)
16. (Cancelled)
17. (Original) The method of Claim 10 further comprising:  
receiving information that identifies a period of time said policy decision is valid.
18. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 10 further comprising:  
receiving from said remote source a condition associated with said policy definition, wherein said condition is enforced locally.

19. (Currently Amended) A computer-usable medium having computer-readable program code embodied therein for causing a computer system to perform a method of controlling access to resources, said method comprising:

storing in local memory a policy decision for a first resource, said policy decision received from a remote source of policy definitions, said policy decision based on a policy definition governing access to said first resource and on requestor identifying information provided to said source;

receiving a ~~first~~ an initial request for access to said first resource, said initial request comprising said requestor identifying information;

evaluating said ~~first~~ initial request using said policy decision stored in said local memory;

receiving a notification from said remote source of a change in said policy definition, said notification identifying said first resource comprising an updated version of said policy decision;

receiving a ~~second~~ subsequent request for access to said first resource; and

evaluating said ~~second~~ subsequent request based on said notification ~~updated version of said policy decision~~.

20. (Previously Presented) The computer-usable medium of Claim 19 wherein said first resource is affiliated with another resource, wherein a policy decision for said other resource is received from said remote source and stored in said local memory.

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The computer-usable medium of Claim 19 wherein a period of time said policy decision is valid is also received from said remote source and stored locally.

24. (Previously Presented) The computer-usable medium of Claim 19 wherein a condition associated with said policy definition is also received from said remote source and stored locally, wherein said condition is enforced locally.
25. (Currently Amended) The computer-usable medium of Claim 19 wherein said computer-readable program code embodied therein causes said computer system to perform said method further comprising:
- receiving a ~~first~~ an initial request for access to a second resource, said ~~first~~ initial request comprising said requestor identifying information;
  - providing said requestor identifying information to said remote source;
  - receiving from said remote source a policy decision for said second resource, said policy decision for said second resource based on a policy definition that governs access to said second resource and said requestor identifying information; and
  - storing said policy decision for said second resource in said local memory, wherein a subsequent ~~second~~ request for said second resource is evaluated using said policy decision stored in said local memory.
26. (New) The method of Claim 1, wherein said notification comprises an updated version of said policy decision.
27. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein evaluating said subsequent request further comprises:
- requesting an updated version of said policy decision from said remote source of policy definitions.
28. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving said notification further comprises:
- polling said remote source of policy definitions to request an updated version of said policy decision.

- 29.(New) The method of claim 10, wherein said notification comprises an updated version of said policy decision.
- 30.(New) The method of claim 10, wherein evaluating said request for access to said resource received after said notification comprises:  
requesting an updated version of said policy decision from said remote source.
- 31.(New) The method of claim 10, wherein receiving said notification further comprises:  
polling said remote source to request an updated version of said policy decision.
- 32.(New) The computer-usable medium of Claim 19, wherein evaluating said subsequent request further comprises:  
requesting an updated version of said policy decision from said remote source.